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Fall 2014

# F14RS No. 39 (Plus-Minus Grading)

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### Recommended Citation

Grashoff, Adam, "F14RS No. 39 (Plus-Minus Grading)" (2014). *Student Senate Enrolled Legislation*. 298.  
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## STUDENT SENATE

F14RS

SGR No. 39

BY: SENATOR GRASHOFF

## A RESOLUTION

TO REAFFIRM LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF OPPOSITION TOWARD THE PROPOSED SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM AND TO URGE AND REQUEST PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR DR. F. KING ALEXANDER TO NOT APPROVE THE FACULTY SENATE'S PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING GUIDELINES.

**PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT PASSED STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION TWENTY-SEVEN (27) IN THE FALL 2011 REGULAR SESSION, STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NINE (9) IN THE FALL 2012 REGULAR SESSION, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION EIGHT (8) IN THE FALL 2013 REGULAR SESSION, ALL THREE OF WHICH OPPOSED THE CREATION OF A PLUS/MINUS OR SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM FOR LSU; AND

**PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, UPDATED RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC HAS CONTINUED TO COME FORTH SINCE FALL 2012; AND

**PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, CURRENTLY LSU USES THE FOLLOWING QUALITY POINT SCALE:

- A 4.0 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- F 0.0 QP; AND

**PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, WITH THE NEW PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM THE QUALITY POINT SCALE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- A+ 4.3 QP
- A 4.0 QP
- A- 3.7 QP
- B+ 3.3 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- B- 2.7 QP
- C+ 2.3 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- C- 1.7 QP
- D+ 1.3 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- D- 0.7 QP
- F 0.0 QP; AND

**PARAGRAPH 5:** WHEREAS, THE STUDENT BODY HAS EXPRESSED A STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS CHANGE TO PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND

- 53
- 54 **PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, BETWEEN JANUARY 2012 AND OCTOBER 2013,
- 55 STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY RECEIVED OVER 200 EMAILS
- 56 FROM STUDENTS ON THIS TOPIC, OF WHICH ONLY ABOUT TWO
- 57 PERCENT (2%) WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE CHANGE TO
- 58 PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND
- 59
- 60 **PARAGRAPH 7:** WHEREAS, THE LSU FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE
- 61 IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS “SUFFIX” GRADING
- 62 CONDUCTED A SURVEY IN SPRING 2013 TO GATHER DATA ON
- 63 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF SUFFIX GRADING ON STUDENTS’ GPA;
- 64 AND
- 65
- 66 **PARAGRAPH 8:** WHEREAS, THE SURVEY PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:
- 67 “IN THE FACULTY SURVEY, 2,056 GRADES REPORTEDLY CHANGED
- 68 WITH ADDITION OF A SUFFIX (676 INCREASED, 1,380 DROPPED)”
- 69 AND “OF THE 2,770 GRADE ESTIMATES PROVIDED IN THE
- 70 STUDENT SURVEY, 228 WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH
- 71 ADDITION OF A SUFFIX AND 1,253 WERE EXPECTED TO
- 72 DECREASE;” AND
- 73
- 74 **PARAGRAPH 9:** WHEREAS, 224 STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY
- 75 PROVIDED THEIR PERSONAL COMMENTS ON SUFFIX GRADING, OF
- 76 WHICH 82.6% WERE AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF SUFFIX
- 77 GRADING, 9.4% SUPPORTED THE CHANGE AND 8.0% WERE
- 78 INDIFFERENT; AND
- 79
- 80 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY SHOW THAT THERE
- 81 WOULD BE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON STUDENT GPA IF SUFFIX
- 82 GRADING WERE IMPLEMENTED; AND
- 83
- 84 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, CURRENTLY MANY LSU STUDENTS OFFSET THE COST
- 85 OF TUITION AND FEES WITH TOPS AND OTHER ACADEMIC-BASED
- 86 SCHOLARSHIPS; AND
- 87
- 88 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, TOPS CURRENTLY REQUIRES A MINIMUM 2.3
- 89 CUMULATIVE GPA AT THE END OF THE FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR
- 90 (BETWEEN 24-47 HOURS OF EARNED CREDIT) AND A MINIMUM 2.5
- 91 CUMULATIVE GPA AT THE END OF ALL OTHER ACADEMIC YEARS
- 92 (ONCE 48 HOURS HAS BEEN EARNED); AND
- 93
- 94 **PARAGRAPH 13:** WHEREAS, LOSING TOPS AND OTHER ACADEMIC-BASED
- 95 SCHOLARSHIPS COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT
- 96 ON MANY LSU STUDENTS, FORCING THEM TO UNDERGO
- 97 UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS AND POSSIBLY EVEN RESIGNING FROM
- 98 THE UNIVERSITY; AND
- 99
- 100 **PARAGRAPH 14:** WHEREAS, THE PLUS/MINUS SUFFIX GRADING SCALE COULD
- 101 POTENTIALLY DETER PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING
- 102 THE UNIVERSITY AND DECREASE ENROLLMENT; AND
- 103
- 104 **PARAGRAPH 15:** WHEREAS, THE LOWERING OF MANY STUDENTS’ GPA WILL
- 105 DECREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LSU GRADUATES SEEKING
- 106 ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS; AND

- 107  
108 **PARAGRAPH 16:** WHEREAS, MANY INSTRUCTORS CURRENTLY USE A SUBJECTIVE  
109 GRADING SCALE FOR THEIR COURSES; AND  
110
- 111 **PARAGRAPH 17:** WHEREAS, IF THIS NEW GRADING SYSTEM WERE OPTIONAL IT  
112 WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND FACULTY  
113 ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY; AND  
114
- 115 **PARAGRAPH 18:** WHEREAS, THIS CONFUSION WOULD STEM FROM THE LACK OF  
116 UNIFORMITY IN REGARD TO THE QUALITY POINT DISTRIBUTION  
117 AMONG INSTRUCTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE INSTRUCTORS  
118 TEACHING EQUIVALENT COURSES; AND  
119
- 120 **PARAGRAPH 19:** WHEREAS, CONFUSION WOULD ALSO ARISE WHEN COMPARING  
121 LSU TRANSCRIPTS WITH EACH OTHER DUE TO THIS LACK OF  
122 UNIFORMITY; AND  
123
- 124 **PARAGRAPH 20:** WHEREAS, THE OPINION OF THE LSU STUDENT BODY IN REGARD  
125 TO THIS CHANGE IN THE GRADING SYSTEM MUST BE CONSIDERED  
126 DUE TO THIS HAVING A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE ACADEMIC  
127 LIFE OF MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND (30,000) STUDENTS AND  
128 THEIR FUTURE; AND  
129
- 130 **PARAGRAPH 21:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE REPRESENTED IN  
131 DISCUSSIONS THAT WOULD HAVE SUCH A LARGE EFFECT ON THEIR  
132 LIVES.  
133
- 134 **PARAGRAPH 22:** THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LOUISIANA  
135 STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE IS STRONGLY  
136 OPPOSED TO IMPLEMENTING A PLUS/MINUS SUFFIX GRADING  
137 SYSTEM AND URGES PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR DR. F. KING  
138 ALEXANDER TO NOT APPROVE THE FACULTY SENATE'S  
139 PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING GUIDELINES, AND  
140
- 141 **PARAGRAPH 23:** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS  
142 RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO DR. F. KING  
143 ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR, DR. STUART BELL,  
144 EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST, AND DR. K.C.  
145 WHITE, DEAN OF STUDENTS.  
146
- 147 **PARAGRAPH 24:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A  
148 SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) VOTE OF THE LSU  
149 STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON  
150 LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE  
151 PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON  
152 THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.  
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**APPROVED:**

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**TYLER S. LOGA**  
**SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**DATE:**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLAYTON TUFTS**  
**STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**

**DATE:**\_\_\_\_\_